Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 03267 220558Z

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9460

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CJSC WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 3267

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: AEMR, CB

SUBJECT: E AND E: TCNS WORKING FOR U.S. NETWORKS

MANILA FOR EALG

REF: STATE 039289 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS INFORMALLY ADVISED CORRESPONDENTS WE UNABLE ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVACUATION OF TCN PERSONNEL WORKING FOR NETWORKS IN KHMER REPUBLIC. OUR PRESENT POLICY REGARDING INCLUSION OF TCN'S IN OUR E&E PLAN IS TO EVACUATE ONLY: 1. THOSE TCN'S WORKING FOR EMBASSY; 2. THOSE WORKING UNDER DOD CONTRACTS WITH MEDTC: FEDERAL ELECTRIC CORPORATION, LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TEAM (FORMERLY AIR AMERICA), TACAN AND ONE TCN FROM THE MODERN LANGUAGE INSTUTUTE; AND 3. THOSE TCN'S CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03267 220558Z

WORKING FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ON USG-SUPPORTED PROJECTS

PROVIDED THAT THEY WERE HIRED OUTSIDE KHMER REPUBLIC FOR THAT PURPOSE.

2. OUR BASIC REASON FOR REFUSING TO INCLUDE OTHERS (WHICH SHOULD NOT BE REVEALED TO PRESS) IS THAT FIGURE OF OUR POTENTIAL EVACUEES NOW STANDS AT 757 PERSONS WHICH CONSIDERABLY EXCEEDS THE 575 FIGURE WHICH MILITARY COMMANDS RESPONSIBLE ESTIMATE IS MAXIMUM FOR A ONE-TIME HELICOPTER EVACUATION, THE CONTINGENCY WE MUST PLAN FOR. EMBASSY HAS BEEN WORKING ASSIDUOUSLY TO REDUCE THIS FIGURE BY ENCOURAGING DEPARTURE OF NON-ESSENTIAL AND DEPENDENT AMERICANS AND TCN'S DURING RECENT WEEKS.

3. PERHAPS BEST ANSWER WOULD BE THAT OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR NATIONALS AND TCN'S SHOULD LOOK TO THEIR OWN EMBASSIES FOR EVACUATION SUPPORT. WE RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THE EVACUATION PLANS OF OTHER EMBASSIES ARE BASED ON FIXED-WING DEPARTURE FROM POCHENTONG AIRPORT AND SUCH TCN PERSONNEL WOULD HAVE TO DEPART WHILE AIRPORT WAS STILL OPEN. IF THERE WERE STRONG REASON TO BELIEVE AIRPORT WAS IN IMMINENT DANGER OF CLOS-ING PERMANENTLY, EMBASSY WOULD LIKEWISE PROBABLY MAKE THE DECI-SION TO REDUCE DRASTICALLY THE SIZE OF ITS STAFF AND REQUEST DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN CITIZEN AND TCN'S FOR WHOM WE ARE RESPONSIBLE ON GROUNDS THAT EVACUATION BY HELICOPTERS MUST ESSENTIALLY BE FOR A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONNEL. IN THE EVENT LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICANS AND "OUR TCN'S" WERE DEPARTING BY FIXED-WING, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO INCLUDE TCN PERSONNEL OF NETWORKS IN SUCH EVACUATION. DUE TO LIMITED FACILITIES, WE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE ABLE TO INCLUDE THEM IN FINAL EVACUATION STAGE FOR OBVIOUS REASONS.

4. OUR EVACUATION PLANNING IS SENSITIVE. EMBASSY WOULD SUGGEST THAT IN REPLYING TO NETWORKS NO ALLUSION BE MADE TO PLANS FOR A HELICOPTER EVACUATION.

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TAGS: AEMR, CB To: STATE

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